



Gilroy Unified School District

Introduction to Districting

March 10, 2020

1. **“At Large”**
2. **“From District” or “Residence” Districts**
3. **“By District”**

**The California Voting Rights Act
was written to specifically
encourage by-district elections.**

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

3

- ❑ Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- ❑ The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court *Gingles* tests:
 - ~~1. Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 2. Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 3. Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~4. Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- ❑ Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - At least 215 school districts
 - 34 Community College Districts
 - 126 cities
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 35 water and other special districts.
- Cases So Far:
 - Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
 - Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases). Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$5 million so far.
- Key settlements:
 - Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - Modesto: \$3 million
 - Highland: \$1.3 million
 - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - Whittier: \$1 million
 - Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - Camarillo: \$233,000
 - Compton Unified: \$200,000
 - Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - Merced City: \$42,000
- An estimated \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

Districting Process

5

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings _____	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District.
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps _____	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map adoption _____	Map adopted via ordinance. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Districting Rules

6

Federal Laws

- ❑ Equal Population
- ❑ Federal Voting Rights Act
- ❑ No Racial Gerrymandering

Traditional Redistricting Principles

- ❑ Communities of interest
- ❑ Compact
- ❑ Contiguous
- ❑ Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- ❑ Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- ❑ *Planned future growth*



Demographic Summary

**Each of the _____ districts
must contain about _____
residents.**

Latino Population

*Latinos are particularly
concentrated around*

_____.

Asian-American Population

9

Asian-Americans are particularly concentrated around _____.

African-American Population

10

African-Americans are particularly concentrated around _____.

Defining Communities of Interest

11

1st Question: what is your neighborhood or community of interest?

A Community of Interest is generally defined as a neighborhood or community of shared interests, views, problems, or characteristics.

Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:

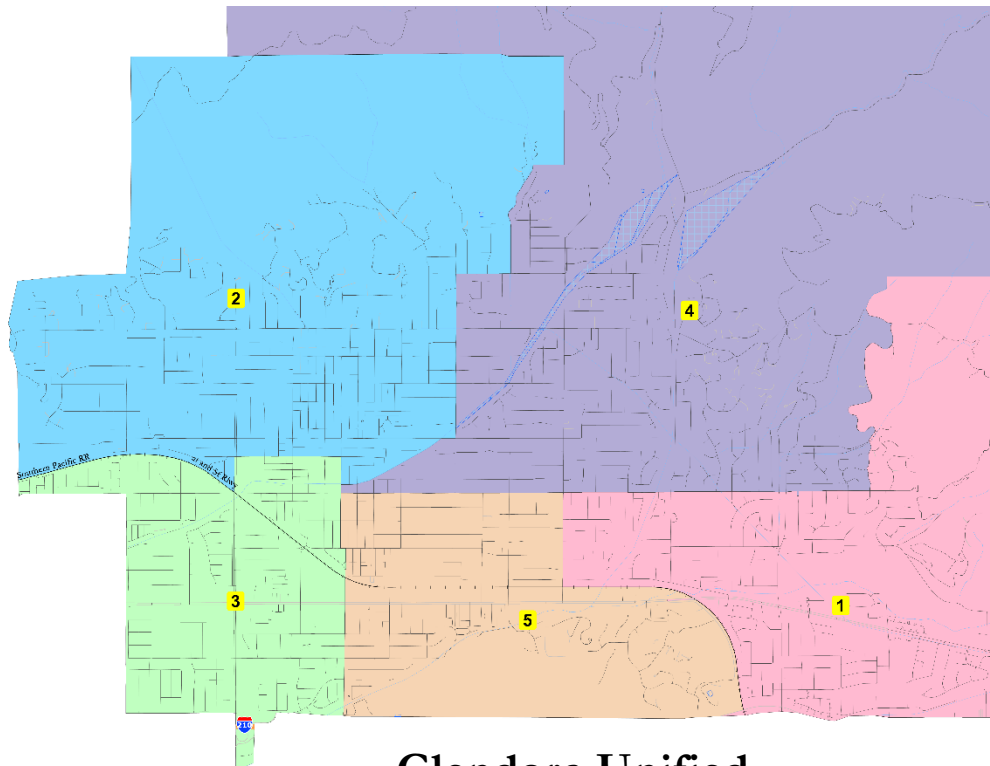
- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals, and/or hills
- ❑ Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks
- ❑ Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns
- ❑ Shared demographic characteristics
 - ▣ Such as similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation

2nd Question: Does a Community of Interest want to be united in one district, or to be divided to have a voice in multiple elections?



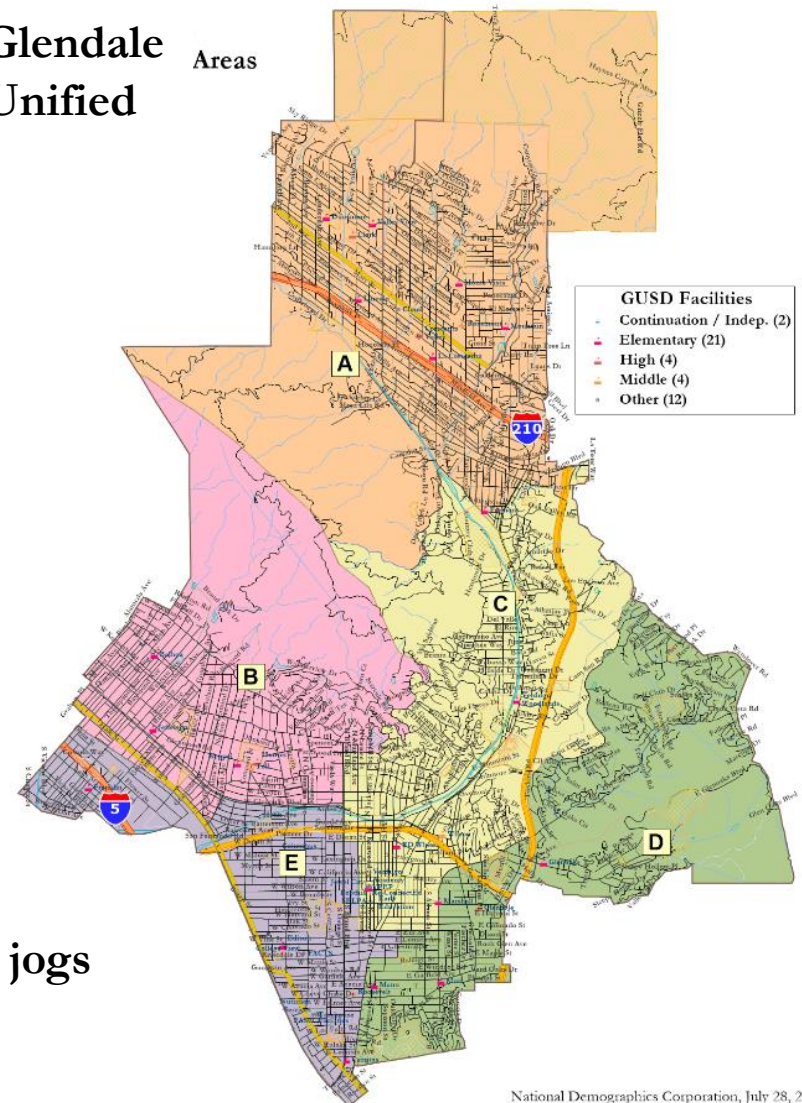
Sample Compact Maps

12



Glendora Unified

Glendale Unified

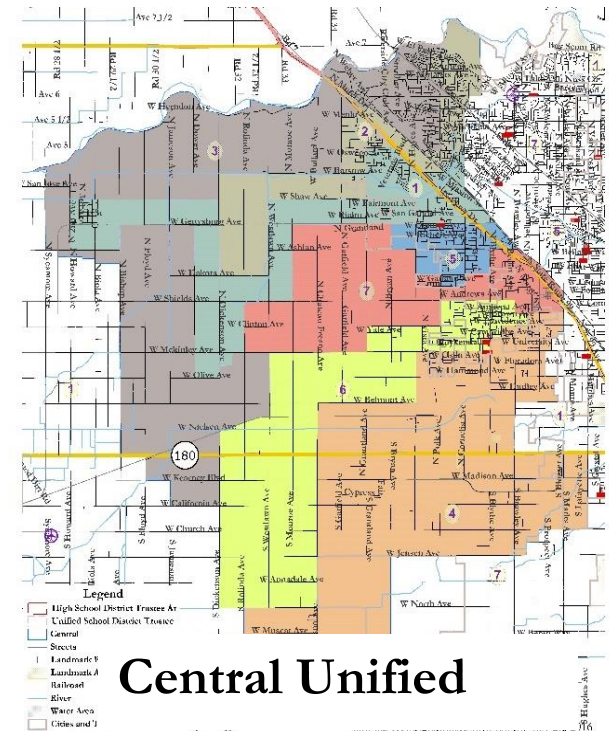
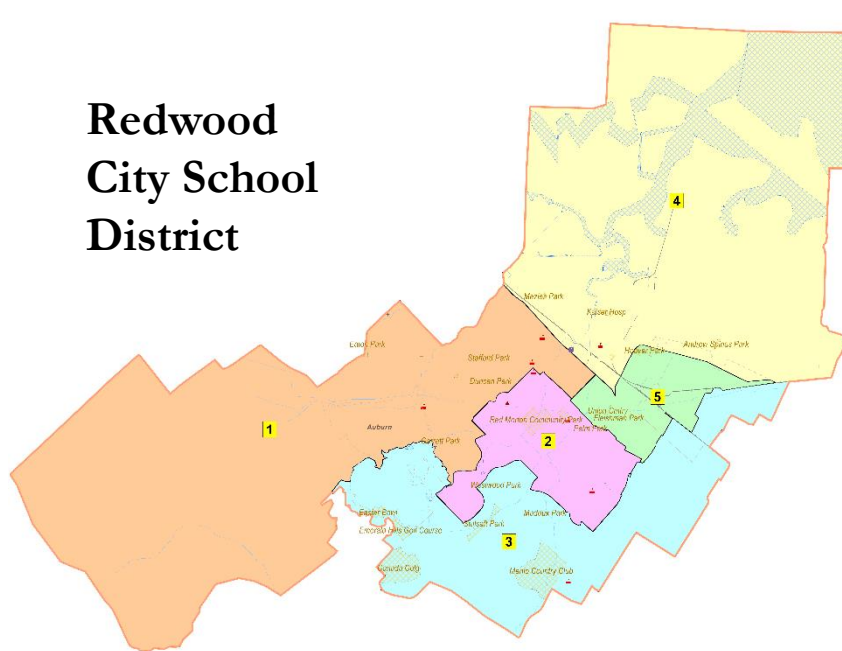


Examples of highly compact maps, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.

Sample Multiple-Representative Maps

13

Redwood City School District



Examples of maps where a desire to ensure Trustees represented multiple school attendance areas (to avoid Balkinizing the District), led to policy-driven but non-compact maps.

Public Hearing & Discussion

14

1. What is your neighborhood or “community of interest”?
2. Do you prefer your neighborhood be kept together in one district or have multiple representatives?
3. What are other communities of interest in the City that should be considered when drafting maps?